



LING2219

Language and Society

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Linguistics

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	4
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	6
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6
<u>Inclusion and Diversity</u>	8
<u>Professionalism</u>	9

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

50cp at 1000 level or above including LING1111 and LING2217

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit you will investigate how and why human languages vary and change over time across individuals and social groups. You will explore processes such as dialect contact and social influences on language variation. You will learn methods used by linguists to study these phenomena and apply various theoretical frameworks to understand the social shaping of language. The unit encourages you to connect your personal language experiences to broader issues in language and society.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Identify and explain the internal and external social factors that contribute to linguistic variation and how these factors shape language use. (Scientist and Scholar)

ULO2: Apply sociolinguistic theories and methodological approaches to analyse and evaluate language variation and change in real-world contexts. (Practitioner)

ULO3: Critically reflect on how language variation and change influence individual and group identity, considering its impact in diverse social and cultural contexts.(Citizen)

ULO4: Engage with the ethical dimensions of sociolinguistic research and practice, and

demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis and interpretation of sociolinguistic data.
(Professional)

General Assessment Information

| General Assessment Information |

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128 and 129).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better. Further details for each assessment task will be available in iLearn.

| Late Submission |

Requesting an extension to assignment due date

On occasion, you may be in a situation when you aren't able to submit an assessment task on time. Please notify the Unit Convenor if this happens.

Extensions are given in special circumstances, by completing a Special Consideration request. For more information on Special Consideration, see <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

Unless an extension has been approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day an assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40

>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0
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For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Group Video Project	25%	No	04/09/2026	Individual and Group	No	Observed
Research Report	35%	No	23/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Examination	40%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed

Group Video Project

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **04/09/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

In a group, you will produce a short video that demonstrates your understanding of language and society. This will cover how social factors influence language variation and change, as well as your ability to reflect on how linguistic communities express identities. You will also submit an individual one-page reflection on your learning experience, collaboration, and future improvements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and explain the internal and external social factors that contribute to linguistic variation and how these factors shape language use. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Apply sociolinguistic theories and methodological approaches to analyse and evaluate language variation and change in real-world contexts. (Practitioner)
- Critically reflect on how language variation and change influence individual and group identity, considering its impact in diverse social and cultural contexts.(Citizen)
- Engage with the ethical dimensions of sociolinguistic research and practice, and

demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis and interpretation of sociolinguistic data.
(Professional)

Research Report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **23/10/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will collect data in a community setting (fieldwork) enabling you to create a sociolinguistic dataset which you will interrogate and analyse to answer key questions about sociolinguistic theory. You will discuss your findings in a research report to demonstrate your understanding of the factors that shape language use in social contexts.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and explain the internal and external social factors that contribute to linguistic variation and how these factors shape language use. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Apply sociolinguistic theories and methodological approaches to analyse and evaluate language variation and change in real-world contexts. (Practitioner)

Examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will compile complete an exam to demonstrate your understanding of key concepts in sociolinguistics.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and explain the internal and external social factors that contribute to linguistic variation and how these factors shape language use. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Critically reflect on how language variation and change influence individual and group identity, considering its impact in diverse social and cultural contexts.(Citizen)
- Engage with the ethical dimensions of sociolinguistic research and practice, and

demonstrate critical thinking in the analysis and interpretation of sociolinguistic data.
(Professional)

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

| Lectures & Tutorials |

This unit is taught through 1 x 2 hours seminar/lecture each week and 1 x 1 hour tutorial. Tutorials begin in Week 1. **Lecture and tutorial schedules are on the same day.** All seminars and tutorials are delivered on campus. A recording of the seminar will be available later on the day of delivery.

| Recommended Readings |

There is no assigned textbook in this unit. Instead, for each week in this unit, except Weeks 1 and 13, you are assigned 1, sometimes 2, reading material. Discussions in the tutorials and assessment tasks are expected to be drawn from the readings and the lectures. All readings are available through the Leganto reading list, accessible via the iLearn page.

Enrolment in this unit entails engagement in a range of face-to-face and online learning activities, including lectures and tutorials, pre-tutorial activities, readings, and videos. Details can be found in the iLearn site for this unit.

Unit Schedule

This unit on ***Language and Society*** will cover foundational concepts in sociolinguistics. At the same time, it will distinguish between macro sociolinguistics and micro sociolinguistics and will include coverage that will illuminate our understanding of these two parallel streams in sociolinguistics. A detailed list of lecture and tutorial topics can be found in the iLearn site of this unit.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)

- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Unit information based on version 2026.05 of the [Handbook](#)